

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 21, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 21, 2003. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-22, 24, and 25 remain pending in the application after entry of this response and are shown above. Claims 23 and 26-55 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 16-21, 24 and 25 have been amended to more clearly recite aspects of the invention. Claims 1-55 were restricted under 35 U.S.C. 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-23, drawn to a pipe tong, classified in class 81, subclass 57.16.
- II. Claims 24-26, drawn to a method of making up pipe sections, classified in class 29, subclass 428.
- III. Claims 27-30 and 32-38, drawn to a bit holder/wrench combination and a positioning device for a wrench, classified in class 166, subclass 77.51.
- IV. Claim 31, drawn to wrench jaw, classified in class 81, subclass 57.33.
- V. Claims 39-47, drawn to a torque flange, classified in class 81, subclass 467.
- VI. Claims 48-55, drawn to a flange and positioning device combination, classified in class 81, subclass 429.

The Examiner states that "Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the tong of Group I can be used to apply rotation to any type of object, not just pipe strings."

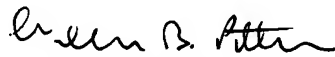
The Applicants provisionally elect Group I, with traverse.

Applicants believe claims 24 and 25 of Group II are not distinct from Group I as stated by the Examiner. Groups I and II are related as apparatus and methods for its practice. Group I claims recite an apparatus for applying torque to tubulars. Claims 24

and 25 of Group II claims recite methods for applying torque to tubulars. Therefore, Groups I and II are related as apparatus and methods for applying torque to tubulars. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement between Groups I and claims 24 and 25 of Group II is respectfully requested.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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